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THE VICTORY OF CALVARY AND PRAYER

D. B. KNOX

"THE CHRISTIAN FAITH"

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The extermination of six million Jews by Hitler and his fellow Nazis shows the awful depth of human wickedness. Every one of those six million people had a life and loved ones. They would have experienced the fear and terror of approaching death, the harshness and cruelty of their guards, the anguish of hope snatched away. War was the only way by which Hitler and his gang could be overthrown and yet war is terrible. Two soldiers who in times of peace are brothers each with his home and wife and children waiting for his return from the war, now shoot and bayonet one another. Yet without war the Nazis would have gone on and executed all the Jews and then turned to deal with other races. Even in times of peace we all know the wickedness of our community, the sorrow in homes through selfishness and cruelty, and the violence in the streets and on the roads. All other human problems, for exemple economic stress and its consequences, are minor compared to this deep seated evil in the human heart, men and women's cruelty to their fellow man.

But the Christian gospel is the good news that God our creator so loved the world that he sent his only son to overcome this evil. Jesus conquered human evil by experiencing its awful consequences and being victorious over it. Jesus tasted the depths of evil and its judgement and punishment on the cross. As the Bible puts it, he was cursed of God, he was punished for human sin, 'the Lord laid on him the iniquity of us all'. He was God himself bearing as man the consequence of man's rebellion, our rebellion against himself and bearing it victoriously. He was cursed, and yet raised by God from the dead because he was victorious. He experienced evil in its fullest expression and was perfectly good in this experience, never waivering in faith or in love. He has

defeated evil and has been raised by God to the place of supreme authority in the universe. God reigns through Christ; His kingdom is triumphant and in due time this will be plain in human history. Evil will not overwhelm the world, but through the gospel right and good will spread till the world is filled with the knowledge of God as the waters cover the sea.

Because of Christ's death and victory on the cross two things follow for us individually. First, we may be forgiven our sins if we ask for that forgiveness. And, secondly, our prayers are certain to be answered if we pray in accordance with the will of God and persevere in our prayers, because Jesus has won the victory over all that stands in the way of God's purposes. So that if we unite ourselves with His purposes, through our prayers, then those prayers will be answered because Christ has won the victory. Jesus said 'if you ask anything in my name I will do it,' and he was able to say this because he is the victor, he has been victorious over evil. He won the victory on the cross and this is proved by the resurrection. Therefore persevere in prayer for the driving out of evil in the lives of individuals you know and in the world.

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